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Current Handling: n/a  
Document Number: 1979BUENOS06227

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A125

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SYE-00 MCT-03 ICAE-00 /091 W

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1734  
INFO AMEMBASSY ASUNCION  
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA  
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ  
AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO  
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AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO  
JSCINCSO QUARRY HTS CZ

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)

U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS

Margaret P. Graefeld, Director

( ) Release (X) Excise ( ) Deny

Exemption(s): B1

Declassify: (X) In Part ( ) In Full

(X) Classify as C ( ) Extend as ( ) Downgrade to

Date 4/11/01 Declassify on Reason 2.6.1

SECTION 1 OF 3 BUENOS AIRES 6227

3.O. 12065 XDS-4 7-30-99 (CHAPLIN, MAXWELL) OR-M  
PAGS SHUM, AR  
SUBJECT (U) HUMAN RIGHTS SUMMARY - JULY6, 1979

REF: BUENOS AIRES 5873

.. (U) INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY: BUENOS AIRES NEWSPAPERS  
THIS WEEK GAVE HEAVY COVERAGE TO THE VISIT HERE OF THE  
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF THE INTER-AMERICAN COMMISSION FOR  
HUMAN RIGHTS, EDMUNDO VARGAS CARRENO. THE PRESS ALSO  
GAVE WIDE NOTICE OF FOREIGN MINISTER PASTOR'S RETURN  
FROM THE UNITED NATION MEETING ON REFUGEES IN GENEVA,  
WHERE ARGENTINA OFFERED TO ACCEPT SOME 5,000 INDO-CHINESE  
REFUGEES. ARGENTINA'S GESTURE WAS WIDELY PLAYED HERE AS  
ONE "DEMONSTRATING THIS COUNTRY'S TRADITION OF HUMANENESS  
AND OBSERVANCE OF HUMAN RIGHTS." ONE DISAPPEARANCE  
REPORT DURING THIS PERIOD PUBLISHED IN THE BUENOS

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AIRES HERALD SMOKED OUT A PROMPT REPLY BY POLICE  
AUTHORITIES THAT MIGUEL ANGEL DE NICHILLO HAD IN  
FACT BEEN ARRESTED BY THE POLICE FOR UNSPECIFIED  
REASONS. WE HAVE ONE FAIRLY RECENT REPORT OF A

PRISONER HELD AT THE NAVY MECHANICS SCHOOL. END  
INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY.

2. (U) VARGAS CARRENO VISIT -----  
ALL BUENOS AIRES NEWSPAPERS GAVE WIDE - EVEN  
LAVISH - COVERAGE OF THE VISIT HERE OF THE EXECUTIVE  
SECRETARY OF THE INTER-AMERICAN COMMISSION ON HUMAN  
RIGHTS, EDMUNDO VARGAS CARRENO, WHO ARRIVED HERE ON  
JULY 22 AND RETURNED TO WASHINGTON ON JULY 27. OF  
GREATEST HEADLINE INTEREST WAS VARGAS CARRENO'S  
ANNOUNCEMENT THAT WHILE HERE HE HAD BEEN APPROACHED  
BY THE ATTORNEY OF MRS. PERON AND HAD ACCEPTED A  
PETITION THAT THE COMMISSION MEET WITH HER DURING THE  
VISIT HERE OF ITS MEMBERS. VARGAS CARRENO WENT ON TO  
STATE THAT THE COMMISSION WOULD IN FACT ATTEMPT TO  
INTERVIEW ALL LIVING FORMER PRESIDENTS OF  
ARGENTINA INCLUDING HECTOR CAMPORA, STILL EXILED  
WITHIN THE MEXICAN EMBASSY HERE. THE COMMISSION'S  
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY SAID ALSO THAT THE COMMISSION  
WILL SEEK AN INTERVIEW WITH JACOBO TIMERMAN, AND  
THAT GIVEN THE FACT OF THE GOVERNMENT'S HAVING  
PROMISED FULL COOPERATION HE ANTICIPATED THAT  
THERE WOULD BE NO PROBLEM IN OBTAINING THE INTERVIEW.  
REPORTING ON THE VISIT, AND ON THE UPCOMING SEPTEMBER 6-20  
VISIT OF THE FULL COMMISSION, WAS PURELY FACTURAL AND  
UPBEAT EXCEPT FOR ONE EDITORIAL IN THE INFLUENTIAL  
(BECAUSE THIS NEWSPAPER SO OFTEN REGISTERS THE VIEWS  
OF PROVINCIAL GOVERNOR SAINT JEAN AND ARMY HEADLINERS)  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

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A NUEVA PROVINCIA OF BAHIA BLANCA, WHICH SAW ARGENTINA'S  
RECEIVING THE INTER-AMERICAN COMMISSION AS PERMISSION  
TO VIOLATE THIS COUNTRY'S SOVEREIGNTY. THE MOST HOS-  
PITABLE AND FAVORABLE EDITORIAL CAME IN THE TOP  
CIRCULATION "CLARIN" OF JULY 25, DRAWN IN LARGE  
MEASURE FROM A CONVERSATION HELD OFF THE RECORD  
BETWEEN AMBASSADOR CASTRO AND CLARIN MANAGING EDITOR  
YTRYNBLUM.

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[REDACTED] AT THE SAME TIME STORIES OF ARMY UNREST ABOUT THE PROSPECTIVE MISSION VISIT ARE COMING TO THE SURFACE. ONE REPORTER FROM A MAJOR NEWSPAPER DESCRIBED CONSIDERABLE ARMY UNREST AND REPORTEDLY SAID THAT THIRD CORPS COMMANDER GENERAL MENENDEZ HAD SAID THAT THE COMMISSION WOULD NOT BE PERMITTED TO ENTER HIS TERRITORY.

3. (U) DE NICHILLO "DISAPPEARANCE" -----  
THE BUENOS AIRES HERALD REPOTED JULY 21 THE DISAPPEARANCE OF MIGUEL ANGEL DE NICHILLO ON JULY 14, AND ON THE AFTERNOON OF JULY 23 MRS. DE NICHILLO VISITED THE EMBASSY TO GIVE FURTHER DETAILS AND REQUEST ASSISTANCE. ON JULY 24 SEVERAL NEWSPAPERS REPORTED A STATEMENT BY THE POLICE THAT DE NICHILLO HAD, AFTER ALL, BEEN ARRESTED BY POLICE AUTHORITIES AND WAS BEING HELD FOR UNSPECIFIED CRIMES.  
[REDACTED] IN HASTENING TO ACKNOWLEDGE THAT IT HELD DE NICHILLO IN CUSTODY, THE POLICE DEMONSTRATED A RARELY SHOWN CONCERN FOR PUBLISHED NEWS OF A DISAPPEARANCE. ALTHOUGH THIS COULD TURN OUT TO BE A COMMON CRIMINAL CASE, AT THE TIME OF MRS. DE NICHILLO'S REPORTING HER HUSBAND'S DISAPPEARANCE TO THE HERALD AND TO THE EMBASSY SHE WAS FEARFUL THAT THE CASE WAS A POLITICAL ONE. TEN YEARS AGO DE NICHILLO HAD BEEN A MEMBER OF A TERRORIST GROUP CALLED THE "FRENTE ARGENTINO DE LIBERACION" --- "FAL". MRS. DE NICHILLO AFFIRMED, HOWEVER, THAT HER HUSBAND CUT HIS TIES WITH  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

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THAT ORGANIZATION 10 YEARS BACK. MRS. DE NICHILLO WAS ALSO CONCERNED BECAUSE ONE YEAR AGO HER HUSBAND'S CLOSEST FRIEND AND CO-PARTICIPATIONIST IN THE FAL, JORGE KARAVELLOS, WAS TAKEN BY POLICE AUTHORITIES ALONG WITH HIS ESTRANGED WIFE AND NEVER RETURNED.  
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(THE KARAVELOS PAID WERE PICKED UP BY ORDINARY POLICE  
AUTHORITIES WHEN THEY CALLED ATTENTION TO THEMSELVES  
DURING A FAMILY ROW AT A BAR-RESTAURANT. WHEN  
NEITHER JORGE KARAVELOS NOR HIS WIFE LUCIA SUICA RETURNED  
FROM THE POLICE STATION WHERE THEY WERE KNOWN TO BE HELD FAMILY  
MEMBERS SUBMITTED A WRIT OF HABEAS CORPUS. SEVERAL MONTHS  
LATER THE FAMILY WAS TOLD BY POLICE AUTHORITIES THAT JORGE  
AND LUCIA HAD BEEN KILLED "IN A SERIOUS TRAFFIC ACCIDENT,"  
AND THAT THEIR BODIES COULD NOT BE RETURNED TO THE FAMILY.)

[REDACTED] EMBASSY WILL TRY TO INTERVIEW MRS. DE NICHILLO  
AGAIN FOR THE DETAILS OF THIS CASE.

1. (U) CAPUTO ARREST ----  
THE ARREST OF RIOBO CAPUTO, THE MANAGING EDITOR OF  
THE SANTE FE DAILY "EL LITORAL" ON JULY 24 FOR PUBLISHING  
NEWS THAT MONTONERO LEADERS FIRMENICH AND VACA NARVAJA HAD

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[REDACTED]

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SURFACED IN NICARAGUA THIS WEEK SET OFF A FUROR OF PRESS  
COVERAGE AND EDITORIAL DISAPPROVAL. CAPUTO WAS ORDERED TO  
PREVENTIVE DETENTION BY A FEDERAL JUDGE IN SANTE FE FOR ALLEGED  
VIOLATION OF NATIONAL LAW 20.840, "APOLOGIA DE SUBVERSION" --

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ADVOCACY OF SUBVERSIVE GROUPS OR TACTICS. ANOTHER JOURNALIST, REYNALDO ACTIS OF THE NEWSPAPER "LA OPINION" OF THE TOWN OF RAFAELA WAS ORDERED INTO CUSTODY BY THE SAME JUDGE BUT AT WEEK'S END WAS REPORTED TO HAVE ELUDED THE REGULAR POLICE AND WAS STILL BEING SOUGHT. (LATE NEWS: ACTIS TURNED HIMSELF IN ON JULY 29.) THE IRONY OF CAPUTO'S SITUATION WAS THAT PRACTICALLY ALL OF THE BUENOS AIRES DAILIES AND ONE MAJOR NEWS MAGAZINE HAD ALSO PRINTED ACCOUNTS OF THE FIRMEINICH-VACA NARVAJA SIGHTINGS WITH IMPUNITY. THE ARGENTINE PROVINCIAL PRESS ASSOCIATION (ADIRA) AND THE ARGENTINE NEWSPAPER OWNERS ASSOCIATION (ADEPA) PROTESTED TO THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR, WHICH IN TURN ISSUED A STATEMENT THAT IT HAD NOT ORDERED CAPUTO'S ARREST. PROVINCIAL GOVERNOR DESIMONE VISITED CAPUTO IN JAIL AS SOON AS CAPUTO WAS PERMITTED TO RECEIVE VISITORS, AND THERE WERE OTHER SIGNS OF OFFICIAL DISMAY AT THE FEDERAL JUDGE'S APPARENTLY PRECIPITOUS AND ILL-JUDGED ACTION. CAPUTO WAS SUBSEQUENTLY MOVED TO HOUSE ARREST BY THE JUDGE, BUT NOT BEFORE IT HAD BEEN HEADLINED THAT HIS WORLDLY GOODS HAD BEEN ATTACHED. WE ASSUME THIS CASE WILL WIND DOWN QUICKLY WITH RESULTS NO MORE SERIOUS THAN THE JUDGE'S PUBLIC HUMILIATION.

5. [REDACTED] GIORGI CASE ----

THE FATHER OF ALFREDO ANTONIO GIORGI, WHO WAS TAKEN BY SECURITY FORCES FROM HIS WORK AT THE INSTITUTO NACIONAL DE TECNOLOGIA INDUSTRIAL ("INTI") ON NOVEMBER 27, 1978, VISITED THE EMBASSY ON JULY 25 TO DISCUSS LATEST DEVELOPMENTS IN THE LEGAL ACTION HE HAS TAKEN IN BEHALF OF HIS SON. IT LOOKED POSSIBLE WHEN FIRST REPORTED BACK IN EARLY MARCH OF THIS YEAR

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[REDACTED]

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THAT IN THE GIORGI CASE SOME KIND OF LEGAL BREAKTHROUGH MIGHT BE ACHIEVED, IN THAT THE SUPREME COURT AT THAT TIME ORDERED THAT A JUDGE BE CHOSEN TO PROBE THE EVENTS SURROUNDING YOUNG GIORGI'S ABDUCTION. MR. GIORGI TOLD US, HOWEVER, THAT THE RESULT OF ALMOST FOUR MONTHS OF INVESTIGATIONS DONE BY FEDERAL JUDGE DR. GITARD, OF THE PROVINCIAL CITY OF SAN MARTIN, HAD BEEN UNFRUITFUL, AND THAT HE HAD JUST BEEN NOTIFIED BY THE SUPREME COURT THAT IN ABSENCE OF FURTHER EVIDENCE THE HIGH COURT FOUND NO REASON FOR REOPENING CONSIDERATION OF THE CASE.

[REDACTED] XDS-4) SINCE HIS SON'S DISAPPEARANCE, MR. GIORGI

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HAS RECEIVED SEVERAL REPORTS WHICH HE BELIEVES THAT THE YOUNG SCIENTIST IS BEING HELD AT THE NAVAL MECHANICS SCHOOL. MOST RECENTLY MR. GIORGI WAS TOLD THAT HIS SON WAS STILL THERE BY A PERSON WHOSE LAST NAME IS AZZAN, AN ARGENTINE OF ARAB DESCENT, WHO WAS RELEASED ABOUT TWO WEEKS AGO -- ACCORDING TO MR. GIORGI AT THE BEHEST OF THE SAUDI AMBASSADOR HERE, WHO IS REPORTEDLY A DISTANT RELATIVE OF AZZAN. ALTHOUGH AZZAN WAS WILLING TO TELL MR. GIORGI PRIVATELY THAT HE (AZZAN) HAD ONLY A SHORT TIME BEFORE HIS RELEASE SEEN YOUNG GIORGI ALIVE AT THE NAVY MECHANICS SCHOOL, AZZAN WAS UNWILLING TO TESTIFY TO JUDGE GITARD TO THIS EFFECT -- OUT OF FEAR FOR HIMSELF, ACCORDING TO MR. GIORGI.

(U) IN CONNECTION WITH THE GIORGI DISAPPEARANCE INVESTIGATIONS AND OTHER INVESTIGATIONS RECENTLY ORDERED BY JUDGES LOOKING INTO HABEAS CORPUS PETITIONS, A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT WAS MADE THIS WEEK BY JUDGE CARLOS A. OLIVIERI THAT HE REQUIRES ANYONE HAVING KNOWLEDGE OF THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISAPPEARANCE OF OR THE PRESENT WHEREABOUTS OF BEATRIZ LEFOUR DE CARRARA TO REPORT THAT INFORMATION TO HIS OFFICE. BEATRIZ DE CARRARA WAS TAKEN FROM HER HOME BY A GROUP OF ARMED MEN ON JUNE 16, 1976. (THE DE CARRARA CASE IS LISTED IN EMBASSY FILES AS ONE DOCUMENTED BY THE PERMANENT ASSEMBLY FOR HUMAN RIGHTS.)

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1. [REDACTED] XDS-4) VOGLER ALLEGATIONS ----

THE AUNT OF VILLA DEVOTO PRISONER LILIANA VOGLER -- A MRS. HINOJOSA -- VISITED THE EMBASSY JULY 24 AND ALLEGED THAT HER NIECE HAS TOLD HER THAT NUMBERS OF OTHER PERSONS DETAINED WITH HER ARE BEING FORCED NOW TO SIGN DECLARATIONS ADMITTING THEIR LINKS WITH TERRORISTS. THE AUNT HAS SAID THAT THE WOMEN ARE THREATENED WITH PUNISHMENT IF THEY REFUSE. MRS. HINOJOSA, WHOSE ACCOUNTS OF EVENTS AT VILLA DEVOTO ARE USUALLY MORE LURID THAN THOSE OF OTHER SOURCES, HAS ALSO TOLD US A CAMPAIGN IN THE UNITED STATES IS BEING ORGANIZED TO OBTAIN COMMUTATION OF LILIANA'S PRISON SENTENCE. THE EMBASSY WILL INQUIRE [REDACTED] WHETHER THEY HAVE REPORTS OF THE SITUATION MRS. HINOJOSA DESCRIBED.

2. [REDACTED] ISABEL MIGNONE ----

THE DEPARTMENT WILL RECALL THAT EARLIER THIS YEAR THERE WAS SERIOUS CONCERN FOR THE WELFARE OF ISABEL MIGNONE, THE

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DAUGHTER OF HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVISTS EMILIO MIGNONE, ONE OF  
WHOSE DAUGHTERS DISAPPEARED SOME THREE YEARS AGO AT THE HANDS  
OF SECURITY OFFICIALS. ISABEL AND AN OFFICIAL OF THE  
INTERNATIONAL READING ASSOCIATION OF NEWARK, DELAWARE  
VISITED THE EMBASSY

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ON JULY 6 WITH THE STORY OF AN ALARMING NEW INQUIRY  
INTO ISABEL'S ACTIVITIES. ACCORDING TO  
ISABEL AND CLAUDIA CASEY, AN ASSISTANT TO THE  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE  
ASSOCIATION, A PERSON CLAIMING TO BE A MEMBER OF  
THE ARGENTINE CUSTOMS BUREAU HAD VISITED ISABEL  
INQUIRING ABOUT FOREIGN TRIPS SHE MIGHT HAVE MADE  
OR FOREIGN VISITORS SHE MIGHT HAVE RECEIVED. HE  
EXPLAINED THAT ANY ACTIVITIES INVOLVING TEACHERS,  
BOOKS AND FOREIGNERS WERE OF COURSE SOMETHING THAT  
WOULD BE OF "CONERN TO THE GOVERNMENT." ALTHOUGH  
ISABEL WAS IN ONE SENSE RELIEVED TO HAVE ACTUALLY  
CONFRONTED SOMEONE IN PERSON WHO CLAIMED AN INTEREST  
IN HER, SHE REMAINED NERVOUS AT WHAT SHE TOOK TO

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BE IN FACT THE DISGUISED INQUIRY OF A SECURITY SERVICE.  
WE HAVE TAKEN THIS UP WITH ONE OF THE SECURITY SERVICES  
AND HAVE BEEN ASSURED THAT THE SERVICE IS INTERESTED  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

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ONLY IN THE FOLLOWING THE ACTIVITIES OF ISABEL'S FATHER,  
NOT THE GIRL HERSELF. THIS IS ENCOURAGING, BUT WE  
FEAR NOT DEFINITIVE SINCE THERE ARE OTHER "LEGITIMATE"  
SECURITY SERVICES. WE WILL STAY IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH  
THE MIGNONE FAMILY ON DEVELOPMENTS.

8. [REDACTED] ANTONIO ZARATE -----  
IN ADDITION TO THOSE YOUNG MEN REARRESTED IN  
RESISTENCIE FOLLOWING THEIR RELEASE FROM PEN (SEE  
PREVIOUS WEEK'S HUMAN RIGHTS ROUNDUP) WE HAVE RECEIVED  
A LETTER FROM THE MOTHER OF ANTONIO E. ZARATE INFORM-  
ING US THAT HER SON WAS REARRESTED ON JUNE 27 IN  
RESISTENCIA AFTER HAVING BEEN RELEASED FROM THE  
PRISON IN LA PLATA ON JUNE 16. EMBOFF HAS INFORMA-  
TION THAT AFTER BEING ALLOWED INITIAL VISITS BY  
THEIR FAMILIES THE RESISTENCIA PRISONERS ARE NOW  
BEING HELD INCOMMUNICADO.

9. (U) PAT DERIAN CRITICIZED -----  
A BRUTAL CRITICISM OF ASSISTANT SECRETARY DERIAN  
HAS APPEARED IN THE BAHIA BLANCA NEWSPAPER "LA NUEVA  
PROVINCIA" UNDER THE BYLINE OF MALENA GAINZA DE  
ETCHEBARNE. MRS. ETCHEBARNE ACCUSES MRS. DERIAN OF  
SILENCE IN THE CASE OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN  
IRAN SINCE TO SPEAK OF THAT COUNTRY WITH THE FRANKNESS  
WOULD BE TO RISK JEOPARDIZING THE OIL SUPPLIES THAT  
THE UNITED STATES RECEIVES FROM IRAN. AN ENGLISH  
VERSION OF THE ETCHEBARNE ARTICLE ALSO APPEARED IN  
THE BUENOS AIRES HERALD AS A LETTER IN ENGLISH TO  
THE EDITOR.

10. (U) ALFONSIN ON HUMAN RIGHTS -----  
SEVERAL NEWSPAPERS CARRIED THIS WEEK REPORTS  
[REDACTED]  
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THAT RADICAL POLITICAN RAUL ALFONSIN HAS CALLED UPON POLITICAL PARTIES TO BECOME INVOLVED IN HUMAN RIGHTS AFFAIRS AND SHOW THEIR METTLE BEFORE THE VISIT OF THE INTER-AMERICAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION. ALFONSIN, UNLIKE ALMOST ALL OTHER ARGENTINE POLITICIANS, HAS BEEN OUTSPOKEN IN HIS HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS CRITICISM AND IS A LEADING MEMBER OF THE PERMANENT ASSEMBLY FOR HUMAN RIGHTS.

11. (U) TIMERMAN ----

SEVERAL NEWSPAPERS COVERED A RECENT STATEMENT BY THE 44TH CONGRESS OF THE INTERNATIONAL PEN CLUB AT ITS MEETING IN RIO DE JANEIRO CALLING FOR THE RELEASE OF JACOBO TIMERMAN. THE PEN CLUB ALSO DISPATCHED A TELEGRAM TO PRESIDENT VIDELA EXPRESSING ITS MEMBERS CONCERN FOR DETAINED AND DISAPPEARED WRITERS AND JOURNALISTS IN ARGENTINA.

12. (U) THE PRESS REPORTED ON JULY 26 THAT IN BAHIA BLANCI FIVE PERSONS LINKE WITH TERRORISM (TWO MEN AND THREE WOMEN) HAD BEEN SENTENCED TO TERMS RANGING BETWEEN ONE AND NINE YEARS. THE INCIDENT FOR WHIC SENTENCES WERE GIVEN TOOK PLACE ON 7 AUGUST 1974 WHEN THE ARMED ASSAILANTS TOOK OVER AN INSTALLATION OF THE ARGENTINE COAST GUARDS IN PUERTO GALVAN.

13. (U) FORMER SUBVERSIVE RELEASED -----

CONSIDERING A RECENT STATEMENT BY THE MINISTER OF INTERIOR THAT THE NAMES OF DEFECTOR MONTONEROS MUST BE MAINTAINED IN SECRECY LEST THEY BE MURDERED BY THEIR FORMER COMPANIONS, AN INTERESTING NEWS ITEM ON JULY 19 APPEARED FROM MENDOZA DESCRIBING HOW A YOUNG WOMAN NAMED SUSANA PORRAS HAD BEEN SET FREE BY THE "COMMANDER OF SUB ZONE 33" IN VIEW OF THE FACT SHE HAD DEMONSTRATED A "HIGH SPIRIT OF COLLABORATION" AND THAT HER REINTEGRATION

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NTO SOCIETY WOULD ENABLE HER TO BEGINE LIFE ANEW ON THE RIGHT PATH.

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